

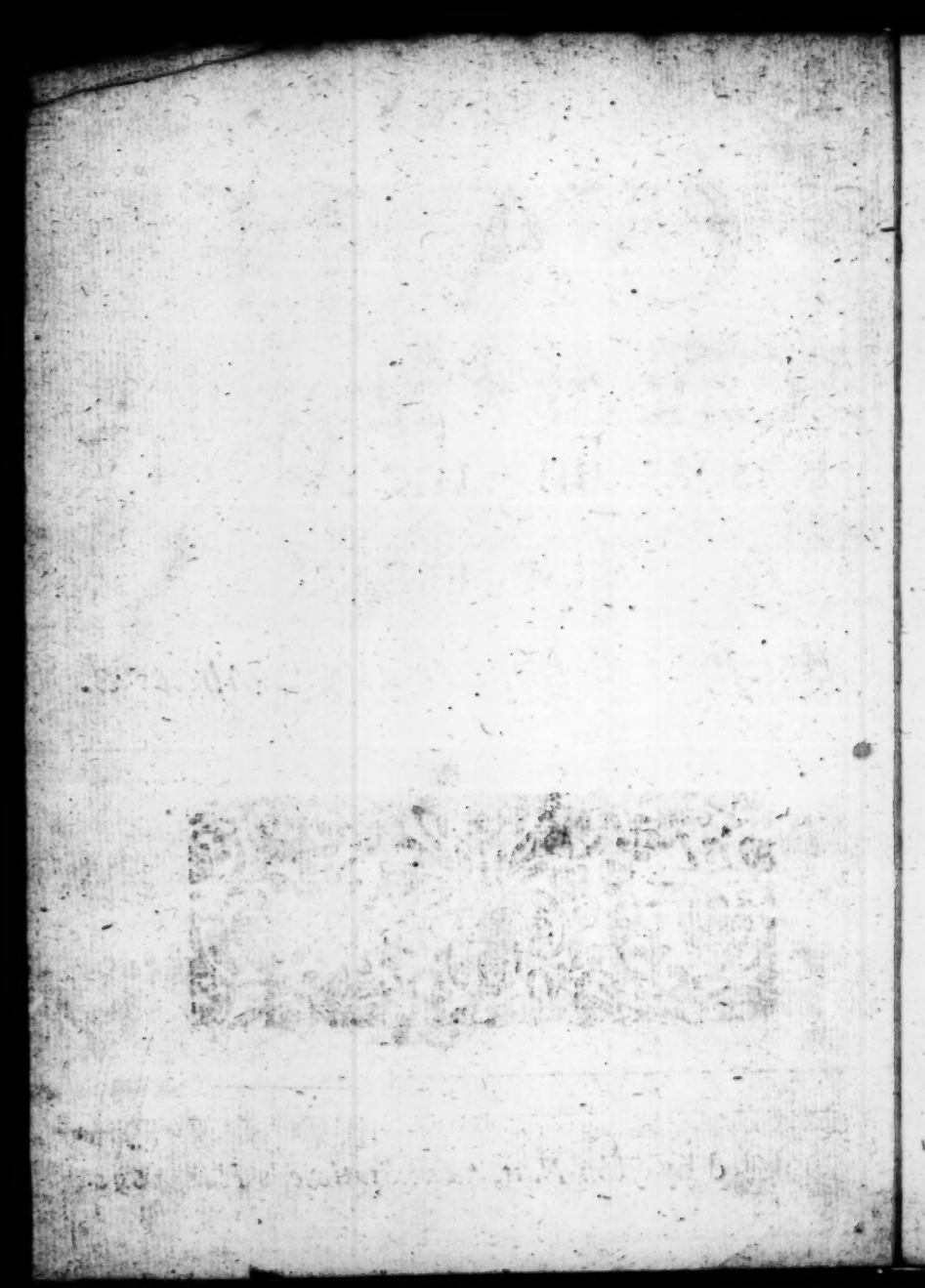
THE
CASE
OF

Disbanding the ARMY
AT PRESENT,

Briefly and Impartially Consider'd



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I Shall reduce my Thoughts about this Matter within as small a compass as may be, and therefore shall not trouble the Reader with Historical Quotations either out of Ancient or Modern Authors, as altogether foreign to the Purpose,

pose, unless they are prov'd to agree with the present Conjunction of Affairs in every Particular; and so far it may be own'd, *that Men in the same Circumstances will do the same Things*; for 'tis a plain Case, that in taking true Measures for the Safety of any Government, Men must Examine the present State of Affairs both within and without it, and things that may happen hereafter; and always to provide against the most evident and likely Dangers

I shall take it for granted, that an Army in time of Peace is consistent with our Constitution if the Safety of the Realm require it, and that it be with the Consent of the Parliament; And therefore if it be made appear, that the present Government, which (under God) is the best Security we have for our Religion, Liberty, and Property, is in evident Danger without an Army, and that in the present State of Affairs our Liberties and Properties cannot be infring'd nor molested by one, this I hope will set this great Case in a true Light.

First, That the present Government is in evident Danger without a competent Number of Land Forces for its Defence. The Posture of *England* at present is this, in relation to Safety, that there

there are Princes abroad that pretend a Right to wear its Imperial Crown, who are Protected and Supported by the most Powerful Monarch in *Christendom*, who is able enough still, notwithstanding his late Restitutions, to do what he pleases with the Empire, *Spain*, and *Holland*, unless *England* joins with them for the Common Liberty, in which its own is certainly involv'd. It is very well known, that this Powerful Monarch pretends in the behalf of the Princes that are descended from him a Right to the Crown of *Spain*, and all the Dominions thereunto belonging, upon the Death of the present King, which is a fair Step to Universal Monarchy: And it is as plain, that if this Monarch can once secure *England*, then he will be able to make good his Pretensions in spite of the rest of the Allies, and *Portugal* too if it joins with them. This demonstrates, that it is absolutely his Interest to have *England* at his Devotion, which he can hardly expect from the present Government: And if the Case be so, then the Question is, Whether it is Safe and Advisable to lay our selves open to a Neighbour so Powerful both by Sea and Land, whose Interest it is to subdue us, who wants no Pretence for it, and who has seldom fail'd to prosecute his Interest when a fair

fair Opportunity has offer'd for it? But they say,
 that a good Fleet, and a well Train'd Militia, is
 sufficient to put us out of Danger. As to the first,
 it must be own'd, that the Honour, Glory, and
 Safety of the Nation does chiefly depend upon
 our Fleet; but it is fit to consider at the same time,
 that the French King can put out all his Fleet
 whenever he pleases, and that he can pursue his
 Designs with more Secrecy and Expedition than
 the Constitution of this Government can admit:
 But the King of *England* cannot put out a Fleet
 without the help of his Parliament, which must
 meet together, and settle Funds for the setting
 out of the Fleet, without which the King cannot
 have a sufficient Credit. The Case being so, it
 cannot otherwise be, (or it is but too probable
 that it will be so) that the *French* King in time of
 Peace will put out his whole Fleet sooner than we
 can put out ours, even though His Majesty should
 immediately call a Parliament, and desire Supplies
 for a Fleet every time the *French* work in their
 Docks at *Brest*, *Rochefort*, and *Dunkirk*, as if they
 design'd to set out their Fleet: Or the Parliament
 must of course allow the King every year a Fund for
 the setting out a Fleet, as in time of War: And
 besides,

besides, though we could be ready as soon as they, yet it is fit to consider, whether if they should Arm in these three Places at once, and the *Hogue*, we can, (considering the accidents of Weather) hinder their Landing upon us from every one, or any one of these Places.

This seems to demonstrate, that it is very necessary to have another Defence ready in case the first should fail, which (as it appears from what has been said) may very well be: This Defence therefore must be a Land Force. That the Militia is not at present a competent Defence, is own'd by those who propose Methods to render it serviceable. I would not be thought to undervalue Militia's, no doubt they could render Service, especially the Foot, being interlin'd with Regular Troops, or they may be put into the less expos'd Garrisons, to draw out from thence the Regular Troops to reinforce an Army: But as for Horse, the Horse must be Train'd as well as the Man, or else the Bravest Men in the World can render no Service upon Horses that are not Train'd. But if the Militia can be render'd serviceable for our Defence against the Invasions of Disciplin'd Troops, as those very Persons that would Disband the Army must own that it is not at present, it is fit to consider, that

a Militia under such Regulations as are proper to make it Serviceable, will then enter into the very Constitutions of the Kingdom, that it will be a very great and perpetual Expence upon the Subject, and that it must vest as great a Military Power in the King, as if he had an Army at his Command, or else it cannot be thought to make it Serviceable. This is the very Case of *Sweden*; *Puffendorf* tells us, that the King of *Sweden* pays no other Forces out of his Coffers but the Life-Guard and the Foot-Guards, I mean in *Sweden*; the rest is the Militia of the Country, maintain'd by Tenures from the Crown (which is the very Original of Militia's) and kept in constant Duty and Discipline. But pray, has this Militia preserv'd the Rights and Properties of the People? Is not the King of *Sweden* as Absolute a Monarch as any in Christendom? And on the contrary, we find a Country on the World not far off, call'd *Holland*, where they maintain all the Liberty that can be imagin'd in a Common-wealth, with an Army and the King at the Head of it, without any such thing as Militia in its Constitution. But an Army, being requir'd only during the present State of Affairs in Christendom, which (as Experience tells us) have never continued long in the same Posture, cannot enter into the Constitution

stitution of the Monarchy, nor can it be made a Precedent any longer than the Posture of Affairs is the same as 'tis now ; It is a better Defence than a Militia, and infinitely Cheaper, and less Vexatious and Troublesome to the Subject ; neither can a competent Number of Land-Forces for our Defence, I may venture to say a good Army, attempt in the least, during the present juncture of Affairs, to invade the Rights and Properties of the People of *England*, (the second Thing to be proved) which is the common Bugbear to put People out of conceit with what seems so necessary at present for their safety ; and when the State of Affairs alters, it will consequently be as easie then to Disband them as it is now, and certainly much more proper.

The Author or Authors of the History of Standing Armies, have already prov'd to our Hands, that no Kings of *England* either with or without Armies, have hitherto made any steps towards Tyranny and Arbitrary Power, but it has prov'd Fatal to them ; and if this has been the success of their Attempts when they have had no jealousy of Competitors supported by Formidable Neighbours, it must be much more impossible for any King of *England* that comes in upon the present Settlement

to set up for Tyranny and Arbitrary Power: And he cannot make any Steps towards it, as Affairs are now, without bringing evident Ruine upon himself; because the Competitors (being supported by the most powerful Prince in Christendom, whose Interest it is to have *England* at his Devotion) will take the Advantage of that great ferment in the Nation, which such an Attempt must produce, to assert their Claim. This is but too good a collateral Security for our Rights and Properties under the Present Settlement; and when it shall please God to put Affairs upon another Foot, and that we shall have no occasion for these Fears and Apprehensions, then let the Army be Disbanded, no True Englishman can plead for it; but whilst Affairs continue in the state they are in at present, it is a plain Case that our Liberty and Property can be in no Danger, but will rather be preserv'd by an Army ready for our Defence.

Those that have writ against an Army during the present Peace, are pleas'd to Compliment His Majesty out of what seems so necessary for his and our Safety: They say, That indeed they are under no Apprehensions of such Attempts upon the Liberties of the People, during his Reign, and so far they are in the Right; but they are afraid of what

what may come hereafter, when the having an Army at present may serve as a Precedent for succeeding Monarchs. To which it may be answer'd, First, That it cannot serve as a Precedent to succeeding Kings, unless the State of Affairs be the same as it is now; if they have not the same Occasion for their Defence, and that of *England*, they cannot draw our having an Army at present into a Precedent. Secondly, I answer, That whenever that unhappy Hour shall come which will deprive us of our King, (whom GOD long preserve to Reign over us) our present Constitution will then run the greatest Risk, if Affairs remain in the same Posture as they are in now; it will be the most favourable conjuncture for Competitors to the Crown, and their too powerful Protectors, to enter upon us: And therefore, since His Majesty's Life is such an Obstacle to them, is it not very much to Expose His Majesty's Person, and with it the Present Government, to have no Army on Foot in this Conjuncture? It is likewise very fit to consider, That in such a Case, besides the Danger on that Hand, we have Neighbours that need not Cross the Seas to come upon us, and who may be rempted to make us a Visit on the other.

I may add as a collateral Argument, That those who have writ against the Army with so much Virulency and Malice, (for none have writ with Temper) have sufficiently discover'd their ill Inclinations towards Monarchy and the Church of *England*, but more openly and expressly towards the Latter; which plainly shews, That their designs against both can hardly be compassed whilst there is an Army on foot for the Defence of the Present Government; and therefore 'tis to be hop'd, that those who are Well-wishers to the Church and to the State, will take care not to be drawn into the Snare, under the plausible Pretext of Providing for the Liberty of the People, which, 'tis very Evident, cannot be invaded by an Army, during the present Conjunction.

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